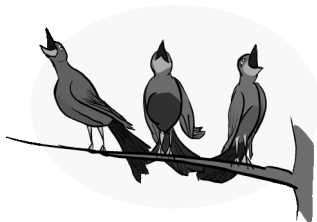


# **BIRDSONG**

**October 2019  
and  
November 2019**



**BIRDINGBURY  
NEWS**

**No 94**



## **Show Stoppers**

Photo: Lesley Fleming

# Birdingbury Parish Council Report

The Parish Council doesn't sit in August, so our September meeting was a bit of a catch up on a number of topics that had developed over the summer. Topics on the agenda ranged from Bonfire Night (the Parish Council 'underwrites' the event) to the allotment shed and back to the Recreation Field (it's not just in Westminster where 'the goalposts are moving'!).

Our Borough Councillor, Emma Crane, usually attends the first part of the meeting, giving us a chance to hear about borough-wide matters and for us to ask for Emma's support, when needed, with planning or highways issues. Emma explained that RBC have joined the many bodies to declare a 'climate emergency' and have formed a group to look at options for becoming carbon-neutral by 2030. We've asked to be involved if any proposals could affect village services or transport links.

As a Parish Council, we also receive notices from the County Council on a range of matters. This month these included a consultation on WCC Rail Strategy and a request to encourage participation in their Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (through <https://ask.warwickshire.gov.uk>). You can also register there for a newsletter about other consultations.

Finally, back to Birdingbury. We also discussed the wide range of 'village assets' ranging from cups and plates through to tables & chairs. If you are planning an event, contact one of the guardians (Gaynor Davy or David Harrison, and Rhondda Barney for crockery). If you can think of similar things that it might be useful for the village to have, please do let me know. There are a few sources of funds, including those held by village committees, that could be used if appropriate (terms and conditions apply!).

*If you have a view on any of these issues, do feel free to contact any of the Councillors, or the Clerk, or come along to one of our next meetings, which will be on*

**Tuesday 15 October 2019 at 7.30pm in the Birbury**

**Tuesday 19 November 2019 at 7.30pm in the Birbury**

*Guy French, Chair, Parish Council*



# Summer Sunday Lunch at the Club

About 5 years ago, Annette and I were sat outside the Club having a quick drink whilst our Sunday roast was cooking. It was a beautiful sunny Sunday. A few village friends joined us and after a while I suggested we brought our roast and potatoes to the club and share it around. A very lovely time was had by all.

So, a seed was sown and 5 years later we thought why not extend the idea and invite a few more people?

The message went around - bring along an element of a sunday roast and we will arrange the rest. I organised the weather with him/her upstairs, put out some tables, plates and cutlery, put together an eclectic mix of chill music, borrowed a gazebo (thanks to Rosy and Michael) and fired up a couple of hostess trolleys.



'Build it and they will come' was famously announced in a film once.

How right they were. Around 50 villagers all arrived at the 1pm deadline, the food was arranged on the trestle tables under said gazebo and the scene was set.

The lunch was absolutely fabulous: we really do have some excellent cooks in our village. My fear was there wouldn't be enough, how wrong was I. The tables were groaning under the amount of food, but, crucially, at the end of the feast there was hardly any waste.

Whilst all this was going on, the cricket was on the TV in the Club. This capped off a truly wonderful afternoon as England pulled off a remarkable victory from the jaws of certain defeat.

I personally would like to thank everyone who helped make such a lovely day. If anyone feels they missed out, I will arrange another one next year with a bit more notice for all villagers.

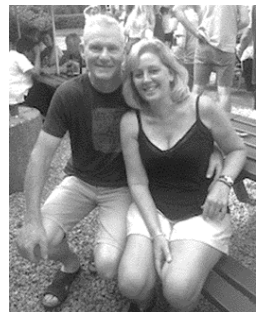
*David Hawkes*

**A big thank you goes out to Annette and David for organising such a great event!**

P.S. A Hostess hotplate buffet server, last seen at the Sunday lunch is missing. It was taken home, we believe, by a kind but unknown villager for cleaning.

Could it be returned to the Club as soon as possible, please!

*Karen Thomas*



## **Dramatic Moment in Birdingbury's History**

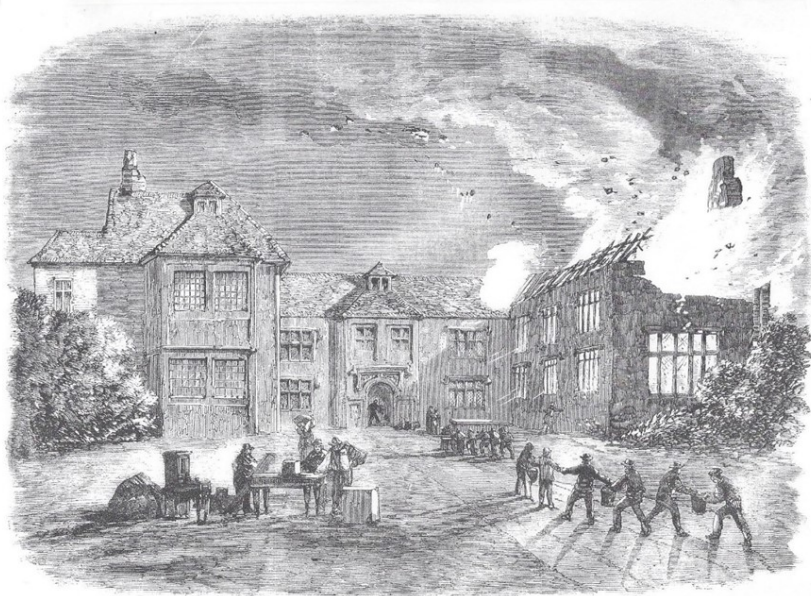
The fire which destroyed the north wing of Birdingbury Hall is well known through the description in *The Illustrated London News*, a copy of which is in the Birbury. The following, much more graphic, description was published in the *Coventry Herald* on 11 February 1859.

### **DREADFUL FIRE AT BIRDINGBURY HALL**

It is with great regret that we have this week to announce the partial destruction by fire of this ancient mansion, the seat of Sir T.W. Biddulph, Bart, on Wednesday night, the 2<sup>nd</sup> inst. The origin of the fire is at present unknown. Birdingbury hall which had nobly withstood the inroads and ravages of time, is situated on a gentle eminence surrounded by the most picturesque scenery. In front flows the serpentine silvery Leam; at the right is a beautiful vale at the extremity of which is the pleasant little village of Leamington Hastings; while in the far distance mingling with the clouds, are the celebrated Barby Hills of Northamptonshire. In a line with the front of the mansion are the green carpeted undulating Draycot Hills, studded with timber. On the right and across the Leam and the railway, stretches forth the Frankton Hills, with their meandering meadows and wooded scenery in the flat. Between the Hall and the quiet sequestered village, with its neat little cottage is the small but commodious Church and Rectory House, in which resides the Rev. Henry Biddulph, Rector and uncle of Sir T. W. Biddulph, in front of whose residence is a delightful and well laid pathway, along which the parishioners wend their way on a Sunday to hear the word that comforteth the heart. The sacred edifice was erected about a century ago. The present Baronet came into possession of the estates about four years since and has lately made several desirable repairs to the old place. In the village we found an old lady who was formerly in the service of Sir T. W. Biddulph's grandfather, and many are, we were informed, the pleasing incidents which she relates of the three generations, to those who are inclined to taste her nut-brown ale.

On the evening of the sad catastrophe, the whole of the domestics had retired to rest: Sir T. W. Biddulph being away on a visit to Shenstone Lodge, the seat of Admiral Sir William Parker. The servants' kitchen and hall, and other offices are situated on the ground floor of the North wing, and above them are the housemaids bedroom, a spare bed-room, (above which was the housekeeper's bedroom) and over the extreme end of the large kitchen was another spare bedroom, in which were deposited a rather large quantity of articles of virtue, valuable books, &c. The fire was first discovered about ten o'clock, by the housemaid, who had not paid her devoirs to Morpheus, being alarmed by the suffocating smell of smoke. She at once got out of bed, and on opening the door, was nearly overcome by the volumes of smoke with which the outer room was filled.

With great presence of mind, she rushed through it, down the stairs, and gained an outlet by the front door. Seeing fire in the kitchen, she ran to the Rectory House in only her night-dress and without any covering to her feet, and gave the alarm to the Rev H. Biddulph, who immediately proceeded to the conflagration, with Ashby, the footman. Here they found the keeper, Goatcher. At this time Mrs. West, the housekeeper, and her niece made their appearance at the bedroom window, and their shrieks and cries for help were pitiable to hear. Goatcher and Ashby at once ran to the stables and procured a long ladder, placed it against the window from



DESTRUCTION BY FIRE OF BIRMINGHAM HALL, WARRINGTON.—FROM A SKETCH BY MR. R. G. SPENCER, OF SOUTHAM

the roof of the cellar, and Goatcher at once ascended and rescued the unfortunate females from their perilous position. The alarm-bell had been previously rung, and Police Constable Jacques ran and alarmed the village, whilst the Rev, Mr. Biddulph dispatched two men on horseback to Rugby and Southam for the fire-engines. In the meantime, the farmers and inhabitants of the village came in goodly numbers and rendered every assistance. All the movables that could be got at were taken out of the mansion, and placed on the green in front, and in the shrubbery behind the house. By this time, about eleven o'clock, the fire had extended itself to the bedrooms, and the smoke and flames rushed wildly through the old windows. They were still increasing in extent, when the fire engine, with four horses attached, and under the supervision of Mr. Jackson came dashing up at full speed. It was stated that the horses came from Southam in twenty-five minutes. Inspector Jenkins also accompanied the engine and did good service.

On its arrival it was placed in a suitable position, and two ranks of parishioners being formed to the river for supplying it, it shortly commenced throwing a copious supply of water on the burning mass. In about one hour after the Rugby engine, under the supervision of Mr. Bromwich, and accompanied by Superintendent Smallbone and a posse of Constables, made its appearance on the ground. It was placed at the edge of the river and acted as a feeder to the other engine. About twelve o'clock the fire was at its height, and the scene was awfully grand, as the thick wreath of curling smoke, from which shot the forked slaky flames, mounted upwards towards the heavens. It was apparent that nothing could save the north wing of the house, and all power was concentrated to save the old mansion. With this in view, Munroe the carpenter, assisted by others, mounted the roof, and, with great presence of mind succeeded in dividing the roof. The connection being thus severed, and the wind being favorable, all anxiety respecting the fate of the private part of the mansion was set at rest. As the men were performing this hazardous operation one of them fell from the roof and would have been dashed to atoms among the flaming debris below in the servant's hall, if Inspector Gaskins had not with much presence of mind caught him in his arms in his descent. At half-past twelve, the roof at the east-end fell in with a tremendous crash. By five o'clock the flames were subdued and about six o'clock the engines ceased playing.

Fortunately, the Hall recovered from the fire and retains its graceful and historic beauty to this day.

*Chris Barney, Birdingbury History Society*

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

## Swap Shop



Swap Shop is held every Saturday in the Birbury at 10.30, unless there are other important events on in the village. We are swapping beautiful home grown produce at the moment and certainly having our 5-a-day.

Our swaps also include books, magazines, toiletries, plants - a wide variety of items no longer needed but in good condition that could be used by someone else.

ADVANCE NOTICE on December 21st we will be swapping unwanted gifts that could be used for Christmas presents. We have done this successfully in the past; mince pies will also be available.

Hope you can join us one Saturday morning soon.

*Di Turner and Jenny Hawes*

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

# Produce Show

Thank you to everyone that took part in the village produce show at the Club on 14 September. It was a brilliant day with a host of truly impressive items being entered across categories old and new (even for categories that didn't exist)!

As ever, the day was rounded off with an auction of the produce which raised £367.52 for the Village Distribution Fund.

Congratulations to all the winners and a huge thank you to John Starley for organising and Gary Laverick for once again being our auctioneer

*Tony Flint*



Champion cupcake maker, Erin, says 'Winning was amazing but making the cakes was quite easy. Where's my prize?'



John eyes up a cake while Gary sells a pie.



Val's quilt takes first prize – in the fruit classes?



The onions would not be beet (!)



Victorious Victorias

## Visit to Lebanon Update

Andrew Armbrister and I are now going with staff from Global Care to Lebanon from 18th-22<sup>nd</sup> November. This gives us 3 full days in Lebanon and the itinerary includes:

- A visit to the Bekaa Valley to see the Shack Schools work in action.
- A meeting with new partners, who are working in a bombed-out Damascus suburb. Global Care is planning to support a Homework Clubs project giving, largely, unschooled children a possible access back into education. At the same time, they hope to work with homeless teenage boys who are very susceptible to radicalisation. As volunteers we will, of course, not be going into Syria. It is hoped the leaders on the ground will be able to cross over to meet us.
- If time permits, we may be able to see the work of A Rocha in a Lebanese wetlands project. They are a Christian charity, who specialise globally in conservation projects.



It is going to be quite an experience. There will be lots of tales to tell afterwards and maybe an opportunity to agree a new focus to our partnership with Global Care across the Draycote Benefice.

*Dick Withington*

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

## Thanks from Barbara

After spending eight weeks in hospital I was overwhelmed with the lovely ‘get well’ cards and messages that I had received from friends in the village, and also the many visitors. I even had some going to Coventry only to find that I was in Rugby and vice versa (I seemed to tour the countryside).



I am now home and learning to walk again, which will take some time, and I have the time to say ‘thank you’ to everyone for the lovely cards, messages and visits. I didn’t think people cared so much.

Thank you all again for everything that kept me sane.

*Barbara Moore*

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

## Get Well Soon, Peter

Our thoughts are with Peter Law, one of our valiant Birdsong distribution team, as he recovers from major surgery. We wish you a speedy and comfortable recovery.

*Birdsong*



# Family Bonfire and Fireworks

Birdingbury's very popular Family Bonfire and Fireworks display will be held again this year, on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> November at the recreation ground.

Gates open at 5.30 p.m. and food will be available from that time. The bonfire will be lit at 6.00 p.m. with the fireworks display starting at 6.15. So, come early, get your hotdog (vegetarian option available), bun and jacket potato, add onions and sauce as you like, find a seat on a straw bale, sit back and enjoy the show.

Tickets are £6, to include food – by far the best value and display in the area. Entry is free for very young children, but anyone wanting food must have a ticket. Numbers will be limited, not only in terms of food, but entry to comply with health and safety requirements. Do buy your tickets in advance, to avoid disappointment on the night. These are available at the Birdingbury Club, or from Gaynor Davy (632041) or me, David Preston, (633222).



Material for the bonfire will be collected on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> October. This should be brought out to the roadside, where it can be seen, and help with loading will be welcome. Any special requirements should be notified to David Preston (633222) beforehand, but anything should be reasonably handleable and there is no guarantee that everything can be taken. Volunteers to help generally with the collection and loading will be appreciated and should meet at the Club at 10.30 a.m. In particular, we are without a tractor and trailer this year so anyone who could provide a suitable vehicle with trailer on the day will be very appreciated and should contact me as above.

Sadly, we are an even smaller team this year, so any help whatsoever will be very welcome to enable us to make this annual village event as successful as in past years.

We look forward to seeing you.

*David Preston*

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

## Advantage

Birdingbury knows  
with no level playing field  
how to play the game  
*Thin Jethro Laskey*





Marton Village Hall



FUNDRAISING  
Coffee Morning  
& Shopping  
SATURDAY 12TH OCTOBER

10:00 to 12:00

All proceeds will be donated to Cancer Research UK

Marton Village Hall, Church Street, Marton. CV23 9RL

Made with PosterMyWall.com

## Ladies Circle

On Tuesday October 8th we will be entertained by Josie Price, a well-travelled lady, who is going to give us a talk entitled 'Here and There'.

Please come along at 7.45 to the Birbury to hear what she has to say and enjoy refreshments with your fellow villagers.

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November at 7.45 in the Birbury: 'Calling all genealogists!'



I'm sure many of you have done some research on your family tree; it's a fascinating business but can be frustrating. At our November meeting Di will share her own researches – the successes and the dead ends! Please come along with your own experiences and let us know what you managed to find. Or, if you haven't started on yours yet, then you might pick up some useful tips.

Gentlemen are welcome to these two events, free for members and £3 for guests.

STOP PRESS: Membership fees are now only £10 per year, a bargain!

*Jenny Hawes and Di Turner*

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

## Coffee and Chat

We will meet in the Birbury at 10.30 on Thursday 31st October and 28th November to enjoy homemade refreshments, a cuppa with friends and an all-important chat.



In October there will be some Halloween goodies and in November special mince pies. We will not meet in December as the last Thursday is Boxing Day.

Please come along and join us; since October is half term it's a chance for younger villagers to join in. Everyone is welcome.

*Your friends at St. Leonards*

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

## Mobile Police Station

The Mobile Police Station will visit Birdingbury on Saturday 23 November, 12noon to 12.45 on Main Street.

If you have any issues or concerns, or if you just want to meet the local team, please pop down and see one of your local officers.

Rugby Rural South / Central can be contacted on 01788 853851 or [rss.snt@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:rss.snt@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk)

## Teams4u Shoebox Appeal

Many thanks to everyone who have so far donated small gifts to fill the shoe boxes; it's so nice when I come home to find a box or a bag containing all sorts of lovely things; mostly just a note to say "For the Shoe Boxes" but no name of the donor, so many thanks to you.



The first boxes have now been packed and stored, very exciting. If anyone would like to wrap boxes (paper and tape supplied), please contact me at Lyndhurst on Marton Road (01926 632 582).

We are still looking for gift donations of socks, scarves, hats, mittens, tooth brushes and tooth paste, small soaps, flannels, pocket size toys and games, pens, pencils, crayons, writing/drawing paper, combs, hair brushes, hair slides.

Once again many, many thanks for all you do and have given over the years.

## Teams4u - Coffee Morning

To be held on Wednesday 30th October between 10.00 and 12noon at the home of Pauline and Brian Clay at 27 Rugby Lane, Stretton on Dunsmore to help raise funds for the transportation of the ShoeBoxes.



*Daphne Chippendale*

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

## Enid Vayro

I would like to thank the people of Birdingbury for all the kind messages of sympathy, cards of condolence, telephone calls and donations to the Alzheimer's society (£337) which have been received during the said loss of mum. Mum is now free from pain and suffering and very sadly missed.

*Lynn Voce (daughter) & family*

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

## Job Opportunity

Birdingbury Village Club are looking to recruit great people for part time evening and weekend bar work. Applicants must be over 18 and some experience is preferred, but not essential as training will be provided.

If you are interested in joining the team and would like more information, call 01926 632511 (evening) or 01926 633487, or pop in to see us at the Club on Main Street, Birdingbury CV23 8EL

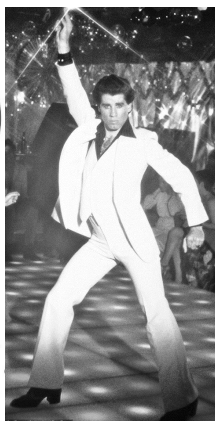


*Mark and Karen Thomas*

## Club Calendar

Date	Event	Time
Tuesday 1 October	Music Jam Session in Lounge	From 8pm
Saturday 12 October	Quiz	8.30pm
Tuesday 15 October	Music Jam Session in Lounge	From 8pm
Saturday 19 October	Music Night with Steve Edgar	From 8pm
Tuesday 29 October	Music Jam Session in Lounge	From 8pm
Thursday 31 October	Halloween Trick or Treat	From 6pm
	Fish & Chip Van	From 8pm
Tuesday 12 November	Music Jam Session in Lounge	From 8pm
Saturday 16 November	Quiz	8.30pm
Saturday 23 November	60s/70s Disco	From 8pm
Tuesday 26 November	Music Jam Session in Lounge	From 8pm
Thursday 28 November	Fish & Chip Van	From 8pm

## 60s/70s Disco



**Birdingbury Club**

**Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> November**

**From 8pm**

**Dress to Impress**

# Winter Wellbeing

## What can you gain from Hatha Yoga?

Research has found that Hatha Yoga out performed aerobic exercise at improving balance, flexibility strength, pain levels among seniors, menopausal symptoms, daily energy level, and social and occupational functions, among other health parameters. Hatha Yoga does more than calm you down and make you flexible!

Classes at Leamington Hastings Parish Hall are suitable for all levels and all ages, men and women. They run on Monday 9.30am till 10.45am and Thursday 9.30am till 10.45am. Cost is £10 per drop in or £51.00 for 6 consecutive weeks



## What can you gain from Pilates?

If you are looking to strengthen your abdomen and pelvis, as well as maintaining a good posture, then Pilates is for you. It also has a strong mind/body connection, so you may like it if you enjoy yoga but feel you need more intense core work. Pilates involves precise moves for abdomen, back and pelvis, and specific breathing technique.

Classes at Leamington Hastings Parish Hall are suitable for all levels and all ages, men and women. They run on Wednesday 9.30am till 10.30am . Cost is £8.50 per drop in or £42.00 for 6 consecutive weeks

For more information please email me at [clairehewer@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:clairehewer@hotmail.co.uk) ,call me on 07879896888, or check out my website [www.fit2burst.co.uk](http://www.fit2burst.co.uk)

*Claire Hewer*

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

## Leamington Hastings Bowls Club

Another outdoor season came to a close on Saturday 14th September with the traditional Ladies v Gents, with the Gents winning this year, followed by a lovely meal at The Harvester in Long Itchington.

We've had a good season (won a few, lost a few) and when we bowl, whether it's a practice roll up or a match, we have fun with good company in the fresh air!

The Lyle Watts Charity match that was played in August raised £468. Thank you to everyone who takes part. Over the years £30,000 has been raised for Myton Hospice.

We start playing indoor short mat bowls on 18th September and every Wednesday at 7pm in the Leamington Hastings Parish Hall. If you would like to have a try you will be made most welcome,! We provide the equipment - all you need to bring is a pair of flat shoes. We look forward to seeing you.

*Sue Turner*

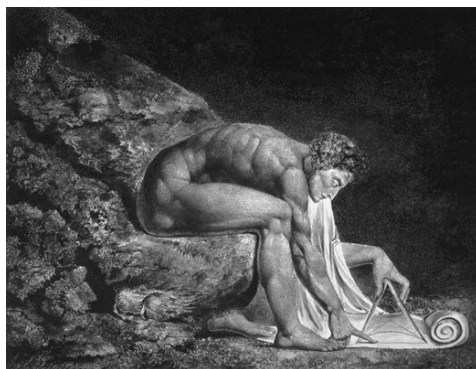
## Follower

I love an open-minded heart,  
A thought that ranges free  
And eyes that see the sea and sky  
In everything they see.

I love a soul that loves its life,  
The spirit's liberty,  
The conscious hand that holds a knife  
To fear and tyranny.

I love still more the faithful form  
Who serves yet never sees  
The bright preceder of their way,  
The Architect of dreams.

*Pilgrim*



*William Blake: Newton*

BIRDSONGBIRDSONGBIRDSONG

## LH Academy Update

The children have all settled back into the routine of school, with some fantastic learning taking place. Over the summer we have had lots of enhancements and additions made to the school, including work carried out in the outside learning area. This includes a new climbing frame, sand pit, gravel pit and mud kitchen. This week the children in KS1 walked to church to find out about some church artefacts as part of their RE lesson. Huge thanks go to Mary-Grace Olive for replacing the stiles with gates over the summer so that the children were able to enjoy the walk through the fields.

It is the time of year when parents start to choose schools for their child's reception year. We would be delighted to show interested parents around the school for both nursery and school places. Visit our website: [www.leafingtonhastings.covmat.org](http://www.leafingtonhastings.covmat.org) for more information and to arrange a visit, where you can meet the Head of School, have a tour and ask any questions that you may have.

*Suzanne Marson, Head of School*

## Birdingbury Calendar

Date	Event	Venue	Time
8 October	Ladies Circle	Birbury	7.45 pm
10 October	Music Jam Session in Lounge	Club	8.00 pm
11 October	Mobile Library	Club	10.40 am
12 October	Coffee and Shopping	Marton	10.00 am
	Quiz	Club	8.30 pm
15 October	PC Meeting	Birbury	7.30 pm
	Music Jam Session in Lounge	Club	8.00 pm
19 October	Music Night with Steve Edgar	Club	8.00 pm
29 October	Music Jam Session in Lounge	Club	8.00 pm
31 October	Coffee and Chat	Birbury	10.30 am
	Halloween Trick or Treat	Club	6.00 pm
	Fish & Chip Van	Club	8.00 pm
1 November	Mobile Library	Club	10.40 am
2 November	Fireworks and Bonfire	Rec	17.30 pm
12 November	Ladies Circle	Birbury	7.45 pm
	Music Jam Session in Lounge	Club	8.00 pm
16 November	Quiz	Club	8.30 pm
19 November	PC Meeting	Birbury	7.30 pm
22 November	Mobile Library	Club	10.40 am
23 November	Mobile Police Station	Club	12.00 noon
	60s/70s Disco	Club	8.00 pm
26 November	Music Jam Session in Lounge	Club	8.00 pm
28 November	Coffee and Chat	Birbury	10.30 am
	Fish & Chip Van	Club	8.00 pm



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